

A New Start: Mission Camp



The camping program at Detroit's Afro-American Mission will experience a new beginning this year—After more than 20 years at Bair Lake, we will have our camping program at "The Springs Ministries" in Gladwin, Michigan.

Change often comes after pain. Many Christians are not ready to dive into a newness—we often become "stuck" in what "has been." The Mission began our camping program at Bair Lake Bible camp in 1994—after a long relationship with Huron Forest Camp Cherith.

Settling in at Bair Lake seemed to be a smooth transition that we know God

ordained. We soon enjoyed our children's looking forward to a loving environment where nature and God were the forefront. We knew that an intercity group renting Bair Lake for a week would come with challenges; but, we held on. God's mercy kept us.

The staff of Bair Lake soon learned of the differences we faced, and with help from the director, Bob Tissot, we were able to overcome many challenges and accomplish the will of God—teaching children the love of God through fun, nature, Bible lessons, songs games and three wonderful meals a day.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 Calendar

AUGUST

Camp

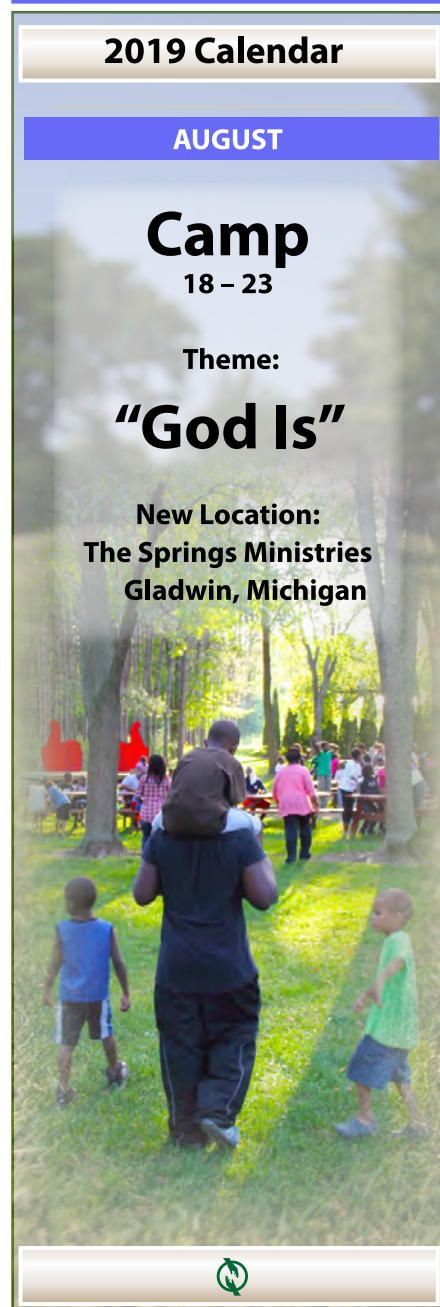
18 - 23

Theme:

"God Is"

New Location:

**The Springs Ministries
Gladwin, Michigan**



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The Golf Outing

God provided such a beautiful day for golf— for a golf fundraising outing, we were more than grateful! The men arrived between 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m., registered and proceeded to enjoy a light breakfast of donuts and coffee.

Then, the competition began... white golf carts whizzing by, men and women laughing, goody bag on the cart. We also had a brother-sister teen team! At the turn (a term I learned) the golfers came in for lunch—turning in their tickets for hot dog, chips and drink.

A few hours later the men returned—some laughing, some saying they should have played better and some saying the “greens were a little damp.” We know that to be true because God has blessed us with an abundance of rain this year.

Well, we do have an awards system; a few golfers won for “longest drive” (both male and female), “closest to the pin” and the best score. Larry Clemons’ (SHOTMAKER) team scored 77— 4 under par. They are happy, and have won before! Also, this year we had Lois Sample who we considered our best dressed—her purse



had golf logo!!! And, we had a wonderful group who sponsors us; they came from Grand Rapids. We so appreciate them.

All in all, the entire outing was a blessing. Lunch was great... chicken, beef, veggies and wonderful desserts. We most appreciate Maud Robinson— he has proven to be our greatest recruiter. As always, he brings in the most sponsorships. We have signs on each hole showing our love and support for sponsors. All that raised more than \$2,000.00 for “**Malettor’s Kids**”— 44 golfers did all that!!!

Sybil Paulette Cross-Nelson



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for:

Cheryl Meadows
Lois Sample
Milton Sample
Charles Williamson
(recent surgeries).

Ida Eatmon
Robert Jones
Garnet Cheeks
(dialysis access complications,
COPD, chronic back pain).



Mission Camp - A New Start - Continued



THE SPRINGS MINISTRIES

2019

As with most of life, change brings a new perspective— one that is not always agreeable. As Christians, we don’t always move as quickly as the Lord would have us to; God sometimes uses other ways to prompt our feet.

In 2017 we experienced an extreme outbreak of bed bugs at Bair Lake. The situation soon turned into a night-

mare with our staff having to make drastic decisions concerning our children’s health. We had to have Bair Lake send documentation to our parents to let them know of the outbreak. Many of our parents were alarmed and upset—but after doctors visits, instructions on handling clothing, etc., we felt the situation was eradicated.

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DONATIONS

All donations given to the Mission for the advancement of the ministry are tax-deductible and appreciated very much. Checks should be made payable to Detroit's Afro-American Mission, Inc. and mailed to 1019 Clay Street, Detroit, MI 48211. Please indicate if your donation is to be used for a specific need, or it will be used where needed most at the time we receive it. Tax receipts are mailed by the end of January unless requested sooner.

Mission Camp - A New Start - Continued

Flashforward to 2019— The situation with the bed bugs became worse at Bair Lake—much was unknown to us until a month before we arrived. The direction of the camp was under new management. The director who served the camp for over 25 years retired. We were never given the opportunity to personally meet the new director of the camp; this proved to be a crucial mistake.

The week before our program went up to Bair Lake, I received a call from the new director. He introduced himself by phone; after pleasantries, he acknowledged the bed bug issue. I informed him that I would let my staff know—but, the importance



Long story short, after much seeking of answers from God and searching for new campsites, we feel God's calling for our program at "The Springs Ministries" in Gladwin, Michigan. We look forward to where God is leading us. We firmly believe that the Word of the Lord will go on in the lives of the children that God will send.



observe the devastation caused by the bed bug situation.

With the leadership change at Bair Lake, we felt much change come upon us. There no longer was a sense of a compassionate relationship that was once held as with the former director. There was a coldness from the new director; he did not seem to have concern for our program.

By Tuesday of the week, we experienced a bed bug outbreak; after two meetings, nothing was solved. I felt my staff and the staff of Bair Lake could not reach any type of solution. The week turned into a nightmare. Accusations were made—and at one point, we were questioned as if we brought the bed bugs to camp!! This left me with deep lament about the continuation of camping—my soul was in anguish.

of the matter was the love of God being shown to our children.

I did not know that the bed bug problem was greater than was explained. The situation was much dire; it involved a deep situation within the confines of the camp. When we arrived at camp, we were able to

After leaving camp knowing that the director no longer wanted us, I still reached out months later. We were sent a letter stating they did not want us to return. I literally felt sorrow. My staff wanted to quit—and, some did.



We hold no malice toward Bair Lake. New direction comes when new leadership arrives. When Christians do not establish personal relationships with each other in different forms of ministry, lack of real true communication breaks down; sometimes it seems this cannot be reconciled. But, we know: Romans 8:28—"All Things work together... 'That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good!'" (MSG)

"God knew what He was doing from the very beginning." (vs. 29)

Sybil Paulette Cross-Nelson





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